2.50 crore has been proposed for the scheme. Besides the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), an apex Corporation, has been established in 1994 to promote economic and developmental activities for backward sections amongst minorities. An outlay of Rs. 175.00 crore has been proposed for the Ninth Plan, Rs. 40.00 crore has been proposed for 1997-98.

Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

565. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 does not cover several disabilities that exist in India and which require attention of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the N.G.Os. dealing with the disabled in the country have submitted a memorandum to Government for implementation of the Act into to;

(d) if not, the grievances of the Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e) Representations have been received from Organisations representing different areas of disability, suggesting certain amendments in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

The suggestions include incorporating more measures welfare, as well as for inclusion of additional disabilities. As the Act has been brought on the Statute Book only recently, it is premature to consider any amendments to its existing provisions at this stage.

[Translation]

Price of Urea

566. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of urea; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has become necessary to reduce the imbalance in the application of NPK nutrients.

[English]

Open Market Sale of Wheat

567. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the traders of Delhi to whom the FCI had allotted wheat for free-sale in the open market and for atta during April to December, 1996 indicating the quantity and rate of wheat allotted to them;

(b) the details of the irregularities noticed in the allotment of wheat for free sale and sale of atta; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the traders found involved in the irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Non-Forest Activities in Forest Areas

568. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the consequences of the interim order issued by the Supreme Court recently directing the State Government to stop all non-forest activities including mining in forest areas–leading to closure of a number of small scale industrial units and mines etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The matter is sub-judice as it is still being heard in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Exclusion of Income Tax Payers From P.D.S.

569. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced the new